

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

MAY 10 1978

DATE ENTERED

MAR 9 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Murphy Varnish Works

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

McWhorter, Vesey, Chestnut Streets

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Newark

— VICINITY OF

10th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Jersey034Essex013**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ GOVERNMENT☒ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See Attached

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

— VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Essex County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

NewarkNew Jersey**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1968☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation, 109 West State Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

TrentonNew Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Of the six major buildings which comprised the Murphy Varnish Works during its peak period (1890-1920), only three are still standing.

The buildings were built during a thirty year period and embody the architectural styles of the times. It began in the 1870's with a two-story factory in the Italianate style, followed by three buildings in the 1880's inspired by Richardsonian Romanesque, then a Victorian firehouse in the 1890's, and lastly a contemporary warehouse of 1905.

Description of extant buildings

1. Chapman's warehouse
The largest building in the complex covering nearly one half of a city block and being four stories in height. It is brick and sandstone with a variation of a mansard roof. It is 7 bays by 12 bays with a stone foundation.
2. Firehouse #14
Built by Murphy for protection of his complex, it is a two-story brick structure with unusually fine details. Built in 1890's.
3. Smaller factory (Chestnut Street) 2 story, 15 bays, 2 bays across, brick, hip roof tower.
4. Smoke stack (McWhorter Street) brick, remaining from larger factory building.
5. Warehouse (Vesey Street) 2 stories, brick, 3 bays, arched windows on first floor, late 19th century.
6. Warehouse (Vesey Street) 2 1/2 stories brick, gable roof, 6 bays, Murphy and Company in terra cotta on front.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☒ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Murphy Varnish works is significant for several reasons. It was the largest varnish producing factory in the City of Newark. It was founded by Franklin Murphy, former governor and New Jersey Legislator, who was responsible for many important new aspects of employer/employee relations. Also the main buildings were designed by Howard Chapman, a known architect in Industrial Design theory.

Industry

The Murphy Varnish Works was founded in 1865 by Franklin Murphy, Thompson Price and James Barnet. Originally they produced varnish alone, gradually adding other products until in 1912 they put forth a complete list of finishes; materials for everything; more than 200 kinds of varnishes in about 1200 shades of colors. The factory grew to about the size of three square city blocks. He also built several other factories in Chicago, Cleveland and Montreal.

Murphy Varnish Works' significance to the city and the world as an industrial concern with a product can be seen in an article by the Newark Board of Trade in 1912 which states:

"No other manufacturing industry in Newark has done more than Murphy's Varnish Company to make the city widely known. Its ads have appeared systematically in Journals of international prominence, circulating in every village in the U.S. Its staff visit at regular intervals, every town in the county of 1000 population or more and many towns numbering even less. The important cities of Europe are even cared for and several of its important brands can be found on the dealers and consumers' shelves abroad with the company's label printed in the language of the country, heralding the name of Newark."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attached

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 8 5 6 9 9 5 0 4 5 0 8 4 1 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 1 8 5 7 0 0 8 0 4 5 0 8 2 0 0

B 1 8 5 7 0 1 5 0 4 5 0 8 3 2 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 1 8 5 7 0 0 3 0 4 5 0 8 2 2 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of McWhorter and Vesey Streets proceed 200 feet SW along McWhorter Street; thence proceed 200 feet SE; thence proceed 500 feet NE to Chestnut Street; proceed along Chestnut Street 800 feet NW; thence proceed 100 feet SW; thence proceed 200 feet SE; thence proceed 100 feet SW to Vesey Street; thence proceed 200 feet ESE along Vesey Street to the point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

(Nanci Kostrub Batchelor, OHP, Trenton,
609-292-2028)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Newark Preservation and Landmark Committee

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

10 Bank Street

(201) 622-4910

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Newark

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Deputy Commissioner, Dept. Environmental Protection

DATE

4-15-78

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3.9.79

ATTEST: Lynn D. Burke

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

March 6, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Murphy Varnish Works
Newark

Essex County

New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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Property Owners in the Murphy Varnish Works

Chemical Intermediates
225 McWhorter St.
Newark NJ

Vacuum Metallizing
84 Johnson Street
Newark NJ

Arrow Paper
90-92 Johnson St.
Newark NJ

Epoxy Electronics
250 McWhorter St.
Newark NJ

Engine Company No. 14
City of Newark ✓
920 Broad St.
Newark NJ 07102

American Waste & Textile
73 Vesey St. ✓
Newark NJ

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Murphy Varnish Works
Newark

Essex County New Jersey 0314

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Social/Humanitarian

Franklin Murphy was born and raised in New Jersey. He attended the Newark Academy until July 1862 when he left to join the Army. By the time the Civil War had ended he had been commissioned a First Lieutenant. In 1865 he, along with James Barnet and Thompson Price, formed the Murphy and Company Varnish Manufacturers. After a few months he bought out his partners and decided to go it alone, despite the fact that at the time he knew nothing about varnish.

It did not take Murphy very long to decide how he wanted to handle his business. He was first to introduce methods which assured uniformity to the varnish industry; he was one of the first industries in Newark to institute life insurance with Prudential Insurance Company and pension plans (also had employee profit sharing system initiated for his kindness of spirit and closeness with his employees - frequently extending loans and giving wedding presents and extending factors to his workers).

Murphy also found time to be active in the city of Newark, being the moving force behind the "City Beautiful" movement which revived the city from the post-Civil War doldrums. He also served as a member of the Newark Common Council from 1883-1886, serving as President in his last year. During his tenure he was responsible for programs to light streets, paving of roadways and sidewalks.

In 1885 he was elected to the New Jersey Legislature. While in office he became known as "the Father of the Park System" as he headed the nation's first public park system commission in 1895 of which he served as a member until 1920.

In 1892, Murphy's state-wide political experience reaped him the chairmanship of the Republican State Committee. His successful leadership of the State party helped them to become a member of the Republican National Committee in 1900. In the same year he was appointed by President McKinley as one of the Commissioners to the Paris Universal Exposition. In 1901 he

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Murphy Varnish Works

Newark

Essex County

New Jersey 07102

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ran a successful campaign for Governor of New Jersey, becoming the first businessman to obtain the post. He was the first governor to rent a home in Trenton (the State Capital) and remain daily about the State House. He also suggested to the State that they buy a permanent residence for future governors. Among his accomplishments in office were the cleaning up of the Passaic River, increase in the working age from 12 to 14 and the institution of the Tenement Housing Commission (which required fire escapes, lit hallways, and up-to-date plumbing by landlords).

In 1908 Murphy was the favorite son candidate for U.S. Vice-President at the Chicago Republican Convention but lost with 77 votes.

In 1915 he retired as head of the Murphy Varnish Company and his son Franklin Jr. assumed the Presidency of the company.

Architecture

During its peak period (1890-1920) the Murphy Varnish Works in Newark grew to six major buildings. Three are still extant. Noted industrial architect Howard Chapman designed the largest and Newark architect James Lindsey designed the other five.

The buildings of the Murphy Varnish Company were built during a thirty year period and embody the architectural styles of the times. Beginning in the 1870's with a two-story factory in the Italianate style, followed by three buildings in the 1880's inspired by the Richardsonian Romanesque, then a Victorian firehouse in the 1890's and lastly Chapman's contemporary warehouse of 1905.

Chapman's structure is by far the largest in the Murphy Varnish group covering one half of a city block and being four stories in height. Chapman's use of steel reinforced concrete provided Murphy with a modern twentieth century building.

Lindsey's five buildings are all much more ornate than Chapman's; they are however also much smaller, none being over three stories in height and no more than one half the floor space of Chapman's. The first building had groupings of arched windows and a three story corner tower; the three romanese buildings had

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County

~~NEW JERSEY~~ 031
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large arched windows and entrances, large dormer windows and heavy rustication; the firehouse of Victorian persuasion has rusticated contrasting color quoins, a flat roof, and bay and arched windows.

The Murphy Varnish Works complex did more than just house the varnish works. They provided the industrial sections with examples of current industrial designs and provided Newark with fine examples of period architecture adapted and simplified for industrial use.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 07102

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Publishing Company, 1913.

-"The Murphy Varnish Company"

-New Jersey Journal of Industry and Fame,
1924.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 0311

CONTINUATION SHEET

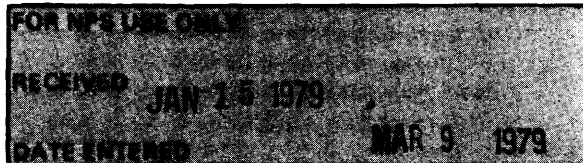
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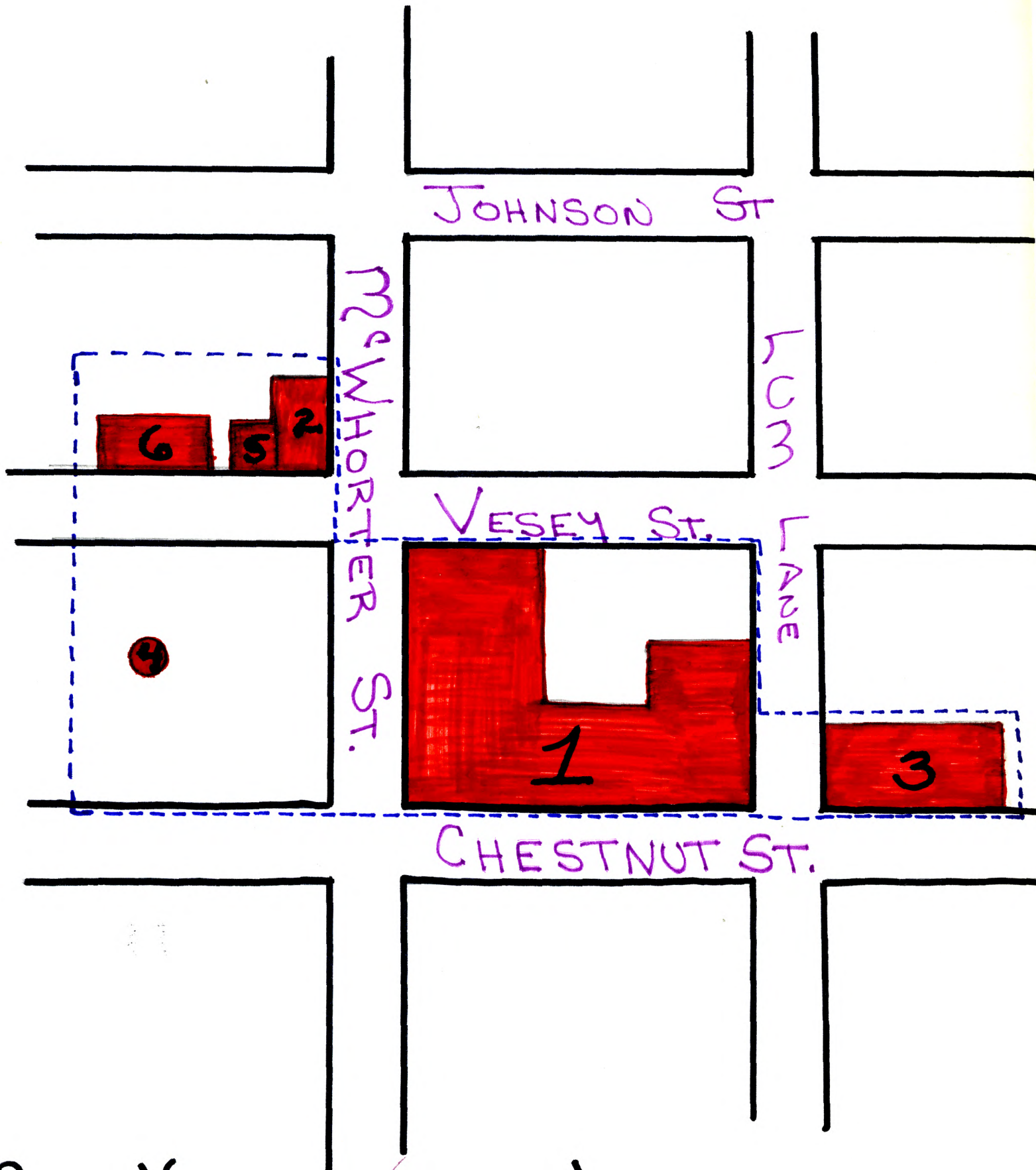
UTM's Continued

E 18 570050 4508270
F 18 569960 4508320
G 18 570000 4508350

The nomination for the Murphy Varnish Works includes only those properties that were part of the original complex. The only vacant land included contains a smoke stack originally part of another factory building, this building was demolished in 1976, so the land has historic archeological potential.

The photographs are keyed in to the sketch map.





MURPHY VARNISH WORKS
NEWARK
ESSEX COUNTY
NEW JERSEY 034
NOT TO SCALE



 BUILDINGS
--- DISTRICT
BOUNDARIES

MURPHY & COMPANY

865

1886



Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

FEB 10 1977

Photo by L. KASCHNER

Photo by L. KASCHNER

MAY 10 1978

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Detail of Building #1
Camera view NW

MAR 9 1979



Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

FEB 10 1977

Photo by T. KARSCHNER

MAY 10 1978

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
100 STATE STREET
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Building #1
Johnson St.
Camera view SW

MAR 9 1979



Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

FEB 10 1977
Photo by T. KARSCHNER

Photo by T. KARSCHNER

MAY 10 1978

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NEW JERSEY HISTORIC PRESERVATION
STATE STREET
TRENTON, NJ 08625

Building #1
McWhorter St.
Camera view NW

MAR 9 1979



Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

MAY 10 1978
FEB 10 1977

Photo by T. KARSCHNER

Building #3
Johnson St.
Camera view SSE

MAR 9 1979



Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

FEB 10 1977
Photo by T. KARSCHNER

MAY 10 1978

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NEW JERSEY HISTORIC PRESERVATION
10000 SPICE CREEK
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Building #4 (Smoke Stack)
Camera view SW

MAR 9 1979



Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

FEB 10 1977
MAY 10 1978

Photo by T. KARSCHNER

Building #6
Vesey St.
Camera view SW

MAR 9 1979



AMERICAN
WASTE &
TEXTILE
1000 S. 10th St. - 1st Fl.
Wichita, Kan. 67202

XIV ENGINE XIV

Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

MAY 10 1978
Photo by T. KARSCHNER

FEB 10 1977

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
104 WESTWATE STREET
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Buildings # 2 & 5
Vesey St.
Camera view SW

MAR 9 1979



Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

MAY 10 1978
FEB 10 1977

Photo by T. KARSCHNER

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF LAND AND PRESERVATION
100 N. GLOUCESTER STREET
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Buildings # 2,5,6
Vesey St.
Camera view SE

MAR 9 1979



Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

FEB 10 1977

Photo by T. KARSCHNER

MAY 10 1978

Building #1
Johnson St.
Camera view SE

MAR 9 1979



Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

FEB 10 1977

Photo by T. KARSCHNER

MAY 10 1978

Building #2
Engine Company No. 14
Camera view S
Vesey St.

MAR 9 1979



Murphy Varnish Works
Newark
Essex County
New Jersey 034

FEB 10 1977

Photo by T. KARSCHNER

MAY 10 1978

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WILSON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Detail Building #1
Camera view NW

MAR 9 1979